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30 January 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. T. Achilles Polyzoides  
Director, Special Projects Staff,  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Soviet Orbit Procurement of Embargoed Materials  
via Antwerp and Rotterdam

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1. [REDACTED] significant quantities of war-potential materials continue to flow through the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam to the Soviet Union and Satellites from Western European countries.

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2. [REDACTED] critical materials shipped or offered for shipment to the Soviet bloc via Antwerp and Rotterdam during the last six months include: industrial diamonds; rubber; non-ferrous metals (brass, cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, tin); iron and steel products; chemicals (naphthalene, polyethylene, sodium cyanide and rubber compounding agents); undisclosed types of metal-working and construction machinery; electrical equipment; and precision instruments.

3. Both Antwerp and Rotterdam are "free ports" and are extensively used as transshipment points for exporting embargoed goods to the Soviet Orbit. The countries of origin for these shipments include Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France and Switzerland.

4. Further evidence of the facility with which members of the Soviet Orbit are currently able to procure critical commodities from the West is found [REDACTED] large amounts of strategic goods, particularly non-ferrous metals and chemicals, are being sent to the Soviet Orbit via Antwerp and Rotterdam. Complicated and devious methods and procedures are used in order to conceal the fact that the shipments are destined for the Soviet Orbit.

5. Examples of the movement of non-ferrous metals to the Soviet Orbit during recent months include the shipment of 6,200 tons of copper via Rotterdam and 900 tons of copper via Antwerp, and 1,296 tons of zinc and 249 tons of tin via Rotterdam. Movement of other materials through these two ports include 160 tons of crude black crystolen, and 70 tons of screened black crystolen.

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6. Other critical commodities reported [REDACTED] to be moving through these two ports to the Soviet Orbit include ball bearings, graphite crucibles, electronic and photographic equipment.

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7. The shipments described above represent a very small proportion of the total number of similar shipments going to the Soviet-dominated countries from points in Western Europe.

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